



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Banking and Insurance

Minutes for MARCH 22, 2021, 9:09 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance met on March 22, 2021, 2:03 PM in Room 451-M.

Members present: Senators Azinger, Clements, Boley, Hamilton, Nelson, Rucker, Swope, Weld, Ihlenfeld, Romano

Members absent: Senators Sypolt, Beach, Woelfel

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Senator Clements, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

S. B. 535 - Relating to rebuttable presumption for certain injuries and diseases from employment as firefighter.

Chair Azinger recognized counsel, Marey Casey to explain the bill in lieu of having it read. Counsel explained and answered questions from the committee. Senator Clements offered a conceptual amendment. Counsel explained that the bill would come out of the committee as a committee substitute if the amendment was adopted. During the discussion phase, Vice Chair Clements and Chair Azinger yielded to questions from Senator Romano. With leave of the committee, Chair Azinger recognized and swore in Erin Hunter, Deputy Insurance Commissioner/General Counsel. Ms. Hunter answered questions from the committee. Further discussion followed about the amendment with Senator Romano speaking against and Senator Swope speaking for, the amendment. Upon voice vote the amendment was adopted. Vice Chair Clements moved the bill be reported as amended, with the recommendation that it do pass, but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the committee on Finance. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted.

S. B. 516 - Relating to PEIA in-patient rates.

Chair Azinger recognized counsel, Marey Casey to explain the bill in lieu of having it read. Counsel explained. With leave of the committee Chair Azinger recognized, via Teams remote access, Ted Cheatham, Director of PEIA. Mr. Cheatham answered questions from the committee. With leave of the committee, Chair Azinger recognized and swore in Jim Kaufman, President/CEO WV Hospital Association. Mr. Kaufman answered questions from the committee. Chair Azinger again recognized Ted Cheatham to answer questions from the committee, which had arisen during the questioning of Mr. Kaufman. Vice Chair Clements moved the bill be reported with the recommendation that it do pass, but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the committee on Finance. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted.

H. B. 2221 - Relating to the establishment of an insurance innovation process.

Chair Azinger recognized counsel, Marey Casey to explain the bill in lieu of having it read. Counsel explained the bill and informed the committee of that there was proposed, a new strike and insert amendment as well as a title amendment, explaining that they were essentially technical cleanup. With leave of the committee, Chair Azinger recognized and swore in Jim Dodrill, Insurance Commissioner, to answer questions from the committee. Vice Chair Clements moved the strike and insert amendment, as explained by counsel. Upon voice vote the motion was adopted. Vice Chair Clements moved the bill be reported as amended, with the recommendation that it do pass, but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the committee on the Judiciary. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted. Vice Chair Clements move the title amendment. Upon voice vote, the motion was adopted.

On Motion of Senator Clements the committee adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. Azinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small checkmark at the end.

Michael T. Azinger
Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina L. Burs". The signature is cursive and elegant.

Tina L. Burs
Committee Clerk